

A RESUME AND SUGGESTION.

Editor Free Press:—The raison d'être of a Liberal government is to be found in the reform of abuses in the body politic with the least possible delay. If this be not its mission, then is it a fraud, a fungus, an excrescence, an abortion, to be extirpated.

Nothing to Reform, Eh!

Is there naught to reform? Has Tory rule in the past been so beneficent as to have left to its fortunate successors nothing to reform, naught to redress? If this could be answered in the affirmative, then 's "Tory" rule the best, the most perfect the world has ever witnessed. If such be its record, what can be thought of those who have characterized it as corrupt, extravagant, scandalous, perfidious? Their rightful place would be in the first rank of moral assassins, in the van of public traitors, enemies of the people, of order, of progress, of good government. Can it truthfully be affirmed that the Conservative government bequeathed to its successors a clean slate, with nothing to do but picnic? Assuredly not. For my part I believe every count in the Liberal indictment, and 'f erring at all, it errs on the side of mercy. Did I believe that the Conservative administration was the friend and patron of good government, it would always have commanded my support and confidence. The party which gave, and next best, the party which promised, good government, has ever been my party, regardless of names or shiboleths. I have been an opponent of the Conservative party from a conviction, rightly or wrongly formed, that the principles and policy of the Conservative government have been inimical to the best interests of the country,

and the welfare of the people. I believe that not only did they leave untouched a wide field for improvement, but that every day of their tenure added fresh thorns and thistles to the small patch cleared and cultivated. My earnest wish is that this government will live up to the orthodox standard of democratic principles. This would doubly please me, for it would be a complete vindication of my life's aim and the maxims which it inculcated, while recreancy would inevitably break into "smithereens" all my idols.

Modern Reformers.

The Irish are pre-eminently the great reformers of modern times. Individually and collectively they make more sacrifices at the shrine of reform than any other people. The abnormal growth of this striking virtue is an accident of the Irish situation. The wretched system which has been imposed upon that people by the relentless law of might, and which is only susceptible of one kind of reform—tearing it up root and branch—has inherently and intuitively built up a race of reformers wherever on the face of the globe their lot is cast. This national characteristic is well emphasized and aptly illustrated in the familiar expression, "Pat is agin' the government anyhow," governments being credited with moving too slowly for "Pat's" sanguine nature. All their literature tends in this direction. It is a cardinal doctrine, a fundamental principle, in their political and economic ethics—to ignore self, to put the public good before all earthly considerations.

An Apt Illustration.

I myself am a living witness of its truth, a living example of its strength,